



PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

#0
ORIGIN
ISSUE

INVINCIBLE



KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

Welcome to our big issue 0 origin spectacular. If you're a regular reader of INVINCIBLE you'll be glad to see this special issue continues right from where issue 22 left off and leads directly into issue 23. If you're new to INVINCIBLE and this is your first experience with the guy, welcome, it's good to have you here. This issue should serve as a bare bones recap giving you all the important info to bring you up to speed while also, hopefully, being an entertaining little yarn.

If you like what you see here, don't feel intimidated about picking up issue 23 next month. You should be able to hop right on and enjoy the ride. Or if you want to go back and start at the beginning there are four volumes of INVINCIBLE trade paperbacks collecting issues 1-19 in stores or available for order right now.

Another option, if you're into that sort of thing, would be picking up the INVINCIBLE: ULTIMATE COLLECTION VOLUME 1 hardcover. It'll be in stores in June and will retail for a measly \$34.95. It'll get you issues 1-13 for pennies a serving, along with all those DVD style extras that the kids seem to dig so much these days.

So enjoy the story and thanks for forking out the half dollar to purchase this thing. I hope to see you around these parts again real soon.

-Robert Kirkman

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MY BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW UNBELIEVABLY COOL THAT IS. I'M STILL IN SHOCK.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW GOOD IT FEELS TO FINALLY GET THAT OFF MY CHEST. I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE TAKING THIS SO WELL.



I'VE BEEN PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT THIS.



TELL ME EVERYTHING. YOU HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING? YOU'VE SEEN MOST OF IT ON THE NEWS. YOU KNOW ME-- THE SUPERHERO STUFF IS ALL TELEVISUED.



NO-- I WANT TO KNOW HOW EVERYTHING HAPPENED... I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. I WANT TO KNOW IT ALL.



START FROM THE BEGINNING.



THE BEGINNING? IT'S KIND OF LATE ALREADY. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY TONIGHT?

MARK, LISTEN TO ME. MY BOYFRIEND, YOU, JUST REVEALED TO ME HE'S A SUPERHERO. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DANGER OF ME SLEEPING AT ALL TONIGHT. LET ALONE ANY TIME SOON.

TELL ME.

RIGHT NOW.

THE WHOLE STORY.



OKAY-- UNDERSTOOD. WILL DO.

JUST LET ME FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START.



MARK.

START AT THE BEGINNING.



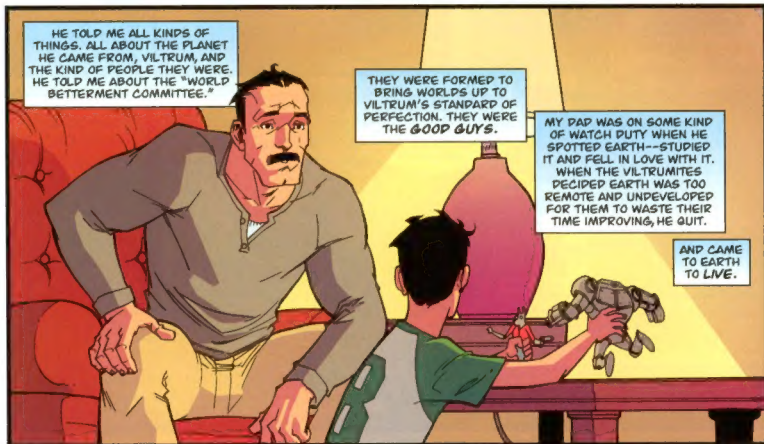
OKAY--LET ME REPHRASE.

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE BEGINNING IS.



CUT ME SOME SLACK, OKAY? I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SAT DOWN AND TOLD THIS STORY BEFORE.







DID THEY? THE POWERS I MEAN. DID THEY KICK IN WHEN YOU WERE FOUR-TEEN?



NO--NOT UNTIL I WAS SEVENTEEN. IT WAS BARELY A YEAR AGO ACTUALLY. I, UM... I GUESS I'M A LATE BLOOMER.



THAT'S THE THING, SEE... I GREW UP EXPECTING MY POWERS. EVERY DAY I WOKE UP AND COULDN'T FLY WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT.



MY MOM USED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT HOW IT WOULD BE **OKAY** IF I WAS NORMAL. SHE DIDN'T WANT ME TO BE TOO DISAPPOINTED IF I DIDN'T GET MY POWERS.



LIKE I SAID--IT TOOK FOREVER... I MEAN, I HAD ALMOST GIVEN UP, AND STOPPED THINKING ABOUT IT.



SO, OF COURSE, I WAS THRILLED WHEN I FINALLY DID GET MY POWERS.



IT'S ABOUT TIME.



I CAN IMAGINE.



THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED ARE A **BLUR**. TESTING MY STRENGTH, TRYING TO FLY, LEARNING TO DO THINGS REALLY FAST...IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.



I TELL YOU, SCHOOL CERTAINLY TOOK A BACK SEAT THOSE FIRST COUPLE WEEKS. IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO JUST SIT IN A DESK KNOWING I COULD DO ALL THAT OTHER STUFF.



I EVEN PUT TOGETHER A LITTLE COSTUME, TO MASK MY IDENTITY WHILE I PRACTICED FLYING. RUBBER GLOVES, A BANDANA--SWEATPANTS. IT WAS RIDICULOUS.



I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN IT.

I CAN SHOW IT TO YOU. I STILL HAVE IT AT HOME... EXCEPT THE **GLOVES**. MY MOM USED THOSE ON DISHES...



ANYWAY--MY DAD SAW ME IN THAT GETUP **ONCE** AND TOOK ME TO GET MY FIRST COSTUME.

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR THAT?



MY DAD KNEW A GUY--A **TAILOR**--SUPER SECRET STUFF. HE STILL MAKES ALL MY COSTUMES. HE'S A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.



ONCE I HAD THE COSTUME, I DOVE HEAD FIRST INTO MY LIFE AS A SUPERHERO. I FOUGHT SOME GUYS--MET SOME OTHER HEROES--ALL IN THE SPAN OF A MONTH.



AFTER A WHILE--I EVEN GOT TO GO ON A FEW MISSIONS WITH MY DAD.



SEEING HIM IN ACTION WAS--I WAS IN AWE. I'D SEEN HIM ON THE NEWS MILLIONS OF TIMES WHILE GROWING UP. YOU'D THINK I WOULD BE USED TO IT.

BEING THERE, SEEING HIM IN PERSON--WATCHING HIM UP CLOSE--IT WAS MESMERIZING. HE WAS MOVING SO FAST HE WOULD JUST SEEM TO **APPEAR** WHERE HE WAS NEEDED.



HE WAS A FIGHTING MACHINE--I DIDN'T SEE HIM HESITATE FOR EVEN A SECOND. HE TRULY WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO.

I COULDN'T EVEN KEEP UP WITH HIM WHEN WE FLEW TOGETHER.

MARK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



OH, SORRY. I WAS JUST--I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE. BEFORE HE--



ARE YOU OKAY?



YEAH, OF COURSE. SORRY I--WHERE WAS I?



YOU HAD JUST BECOME A SUPER-HERO.

OH, YEAH. AROUND THAT SAME TIME, STUDENTS AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL, YOU'LL REMEMBER, WERE TURNING UP ALL OVER TOWN, WITH BOMBS INSIDE THEM-- BLOWING STUFF UP.

I REMEMBER. TWIN PINES MALL WAS CLOSED FOR LIKE--FOUR MONTHS. IT WAS HORRIBLE.

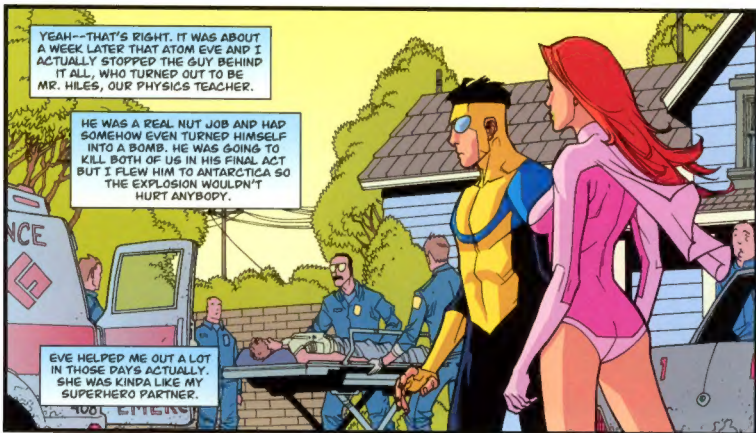
THE WHOLE THING--NOT JUST THE MALL BEING CLOSED--OF COURSE.

OF COURSE. ANYWAY-- I FIRST DISCOVERED THEY WERE STUDENTS FROM OUR SCHOOL BECAUSE MY DAD AND I ENCOUNTERED ONE OF THEM IN LAKESIDE MALL.

THE GUY MUST HAVE HATED MALLS. ANYWAY, WE GOT TO HIM JUST BEFORE HE WENT OFF--

I RECOGNIZED HIM FROM SCHOOL. DAD THREW HIM INTO THE SKY AND SAVED THE MALL.

YOU WERE ON TV, THEN. THAT WAS WHEN YOU CALLED OMNI-MAN "DAD" AND EVERYONE FOUND OUT YOU WERE HIS SON.



ATOM EVE? SHE'S NOT--I MEAN--THAT'S NOT OUR EVE IS IT?

YEAH--IT KINDA IS. JEEZ, DON'T SAY ANYTHING, THOUGH. SHE'D BE REALLY PISSED IF SHE FOUND OUT I TOLD YOU.

YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARK. I PROMISE. IF NOTHING ELSE COMES OF THIS TALK--I REALLY WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU AT LEAST KNOW THAT.

I TRUST YOU, AMBER. I WOULDN'T BE TELLING YOU ALL THIS IF I DIDN'T. IT'S JUST SOMETHING YOU GOTTA SAY, Y'KNOW.

SO YEAH, HILES WAS MY FIRST BIG SUPERVILLAIN. IF YOU CAN EVEN CALL HIM THAT.

I FACED A FEW GOOD ONES: THE MAULER TWINS, TITAN, DOC SEISMIC, THE LIZARD LEAGUE, AND THIS ONE DUDE CALLED "THE ELEPHANT" BUT HE WAS REALLY JUST A LAME RIP-OFF OF "THE RHINO."

THAT GUY KINDA SUCKED.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY OF THOSE GUYS.

YEAH, WELL--THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT IN "THE BUSINESS." OTHERWISE YOU'D TOTALLY KNOW WHO THEY WERE.

NO. I WATCH THE NEWS. THERE'S A NEW SUPERVILLAIN ON THERE EVERY WEEK. THE CHRONOPILE, MEGA-BRAIN, SEBASTIAN KAHN... I SEE VILLAINS ON TV-- BUT NONE OF THE GUYS YOU MENTIONED.

YEAH--UH--ANYWAY, THINGS WENT ALONG, PRETTY SMOOTHLY FOR A LONG TIME. THEN--SHORTLY BEFORE YOU AND I GOT TOGETHER EVERYTHING CHANGED.



NOBODY BUT YOU...

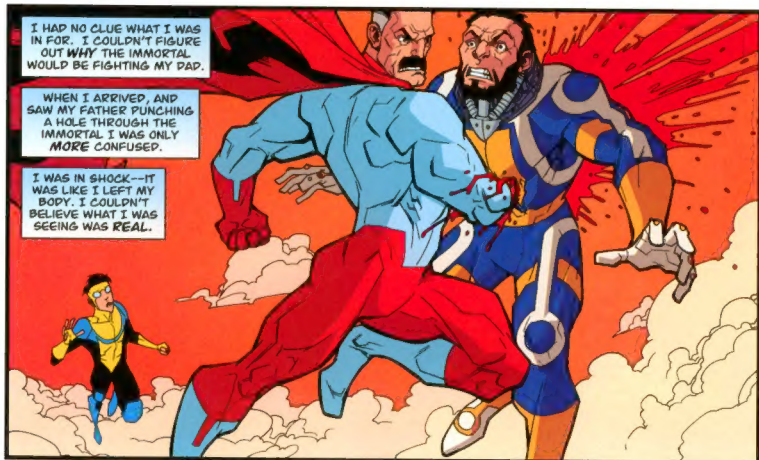
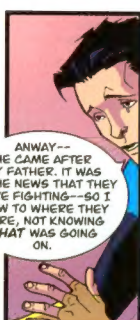
RIGHT?

NO! I HAD NO IDEA WHO HAD DONE IT.

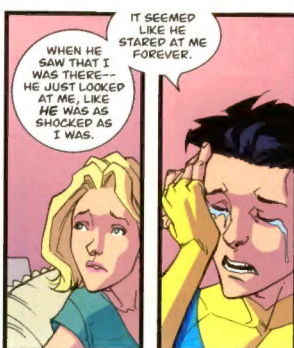
OH--HOW LONG WAS IT BEFORE YOU FOUND OUT?

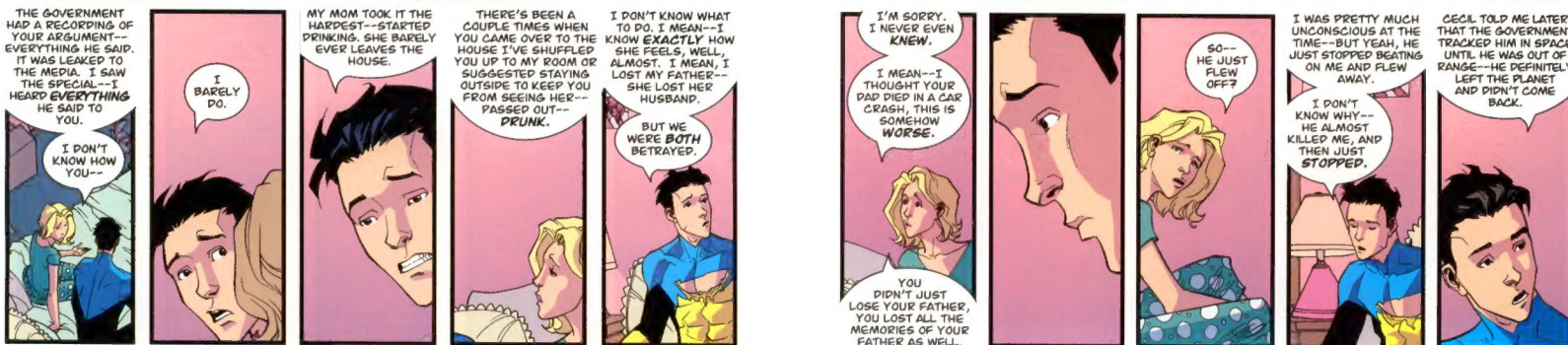
I DON'T KNOW... A MONTH.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?



HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS THERE YET--I HEARD THEM TALKING WHILE THEY FOUGHT.







WAIT--
WHO'S
CECIL?

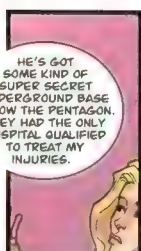
OH, SORRY. I GUESS
I GOT A LITTLE AHEAD
OF MYSELF. CECIL
WAS THE GUY THAT
SAVED ME--AFTER MY
DAD LEFT ME FOR
DEAD, THAT IS.



OH,
IS HE A
SUPER-
HERO?



CALLED CECIL?
OH, NO--HE'S A
SPOOKY GOVERN-
MENT GUY--REALLY
NICE THOUGH. I
LIKE HIM.



HE'S GOT
SOME KIND OF
SUPER SECRET
UNDERGROUND BASE
BELOW THE PENTAGON.
THEY HAD THE ONLY
HOSPITAL QUALIFIED
TO TREAT MY
INJURIES.



HE REALLY SAVED MY LIFE
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE--
HELPING OUT MY MOTHER
AND ALL. AFTER HE PATCHED
ME UP, HE HIRED ME ON
TO REPLACE MY DAD.

SEEMS MY DAD HAD
BEEN WORKING FOR
HIM, ALLOWING CECIL
TO MONITOR THE
PLANET AND TELL MY
DAD WHERE TO BE--
WHERE HIS POWERS
WOULD HELP THE
MOST PEOPLE.

HE RIGGED IT TO
WHERE ALL MY
DAD'S NOVELS WERE
BESTSELLERS ALL OF
A SUDDEN, GIVING MY
MOM A STEADY INCOME.
HE ALSO GOT ME A
SCHOLARSHIP TO
UPSTATE UNIVERSITY.

IN RETURN, ALL I HAVE TO DO
IS ALLOW HIM TO DIRECT MY
SUPERHERO ACTIVITIES--I'D
BE SAVING PEOPLE ANYWAY--
AND HE JUST HELPS ME SAVE
THE MOST PEOPLE POSSIBLE.

I'VE GOT AN EAR PIECE HE
TALKS TO ME THROUGH AND
I CARRY A BEEPER SO I'VE
GOT AN EXCUSE FOR GETTING
UP AND LEAVING WHILE I'M
OUT OF COSTUME.

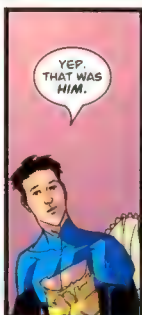
HE SITS IN HIS LITTLE
CONTROL CENTER AND I
GO OUT AND SAVE THE
WORLD. THAT'S WHY I
MISSED SO MUCH SCHOOL
TOWARDS THE END OF
SENIOR YEAR.



OH, AND
DON'T EVER
SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM TO
ANYONE. HE'S
WAY TOP SECRET.
I KNOW--I CAN
TRUST YOU.
JUST GOTTA
SAY IT
Y'KNOW?



UNDER-
STOOD. SO
EARLIER TONIGHT
WHEN I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
TALKING TO
YOURSELF?



YEP.
THAT WAS
HIM.



AND THAT'S
WHY YOU HAVE
THE BEEPER.
YOU'RE NOT
SELLING
DRUGS.



NOPE. I'M OUT SAVING
THE WORLD--FIGHTING
BAD GUYS AND STUFF.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU
THOUGHT I WAS A
DRUG DEALER.



WITH ALL THAT--ALL THIS SUPERHERO STUFF--HOW DO YOU EVEN HAVE TIME TO GO TO SCHOOL?



IT'S NOT THAT BAD-- THERE ARE ENTIRE WEEKS THAT GO BY WITHOUT ME GETTING CALLED TO DO ANYTHING.



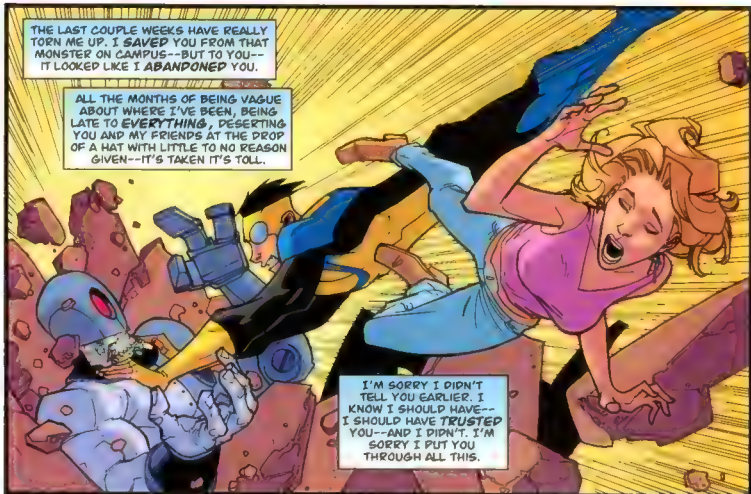
BUT THERE ARE *SOME* WEEKS... WHERE I'M WORKING NON-STOP. MAN, THE WEEK I WENT TO MARS ALMOST KILLED ME.



YOU WENT TO MARS? WHEN?



IT WAS LIKE, A WEEK BEFORE I STARTED COLLEGE NOT LONG AGO. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER, JUST--I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU BEFORE I FINISH.



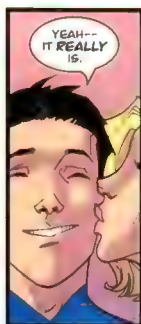
THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS HAVE REALLY TORN ME UP. I SAVED YOU FROM THAT MONSTER ON CAMPUS--BUT TO YOU--IT LOOKED LIKE I ABANDONED YOU.

ALL THE MONTHS OF BEING VAGUE ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN, BEING LATE TO EVERYTHING, PERSEKTING YOU AND MY FRIENDS AT THE DROP OF A HAT WITH LITTLE TO NO REASON GIVEN--IT'S TAKEN IT'S TOLL.

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU EARLIER. I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE-- I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED YOU--AND I DIDN'T. I'M SORRY I PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS.



DON'T WORRY. IT'S ALL BETTER NOW.



YEAH-- IT REALLY IS.



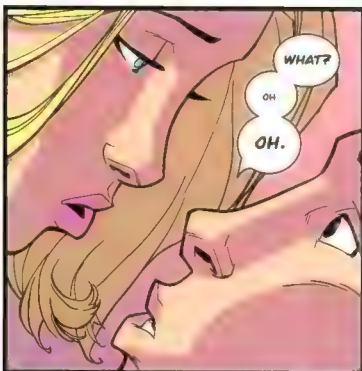
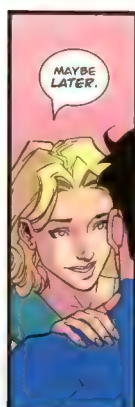
SO THAT'S ME-- SUPERHERO MARK. THAT'S EVERYTHING.



MY BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO.



YOUR BOYFRIEND IS A SUPERHERO.



WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

IF YOU LIKED THIS STORY AND WANT TO PURCHASE INVINCIBLE ON A REGULAR BASIS, HERE ARE THREE EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED:

1



MONTHLY ISSUES

SHIPPING NEXT MONTH IS ISSUE 23. IT PICKS UP RIGHT WHERE ISSUE 0 LEAVES OFF AND IS THE PERFECT LEAD-IN TO THE BIG EVENTS THAT START IN ISSUE 25. IF YOU LIKED THIS ISSUE EVEN A LITTLE BIT, YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS WHAT'S IN STORE FOR OUR HERO IN THAT ISSUE.

2

TRADE PAPERBACKS

AVAILABLE FOR ORDER NOW ARE FOUR COLLECTED EDITIONS OF THE INVINCIBLE SERIES. THE FOUR VOLUMES COLLECT ISSUES 1-19 AND WILL BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON THE SERIES LICKETY SPLIT. ASK YOUR LOCAL RETAILER TODAY!



3



HARDCOVER

SHIPPING IN JUNE IS A MASSIVE 400-PAGE HARDCOVER COLLECTING ISSUES 1-13 ALONG WITH SCADS OF EXTRAS IN ONE GIGANTIC OVERSIZED HARDCOVER. FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE BACK COVER.

NOW THERE'S NO EXCUSE! START READING INVINCIBLE TODAY!

INVINCIBLE

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JUNE
2005



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